

be found to be a public gambling house.

be found to be a public gambling house. Mr Wodehouse is perhaps in a measure right. It is not absolutely impossible to obtain convictions. But is it right that great obstacles should be placed in the way of the police by the legislators, whose aim ought to be to smooth their way? Although, within the last two years, it has been demonstrated scores of times that our gambling laws are absurdly rigid, and we have almost become weary preaching on the subject, no effort has been made to alter them. Mr Wodehouse says it is easy to make any alteration that may be required. Then, why was a change not made long ago? Is it to be wondered at that the

Police, seeing the Government so utterly indifferent, should get weary attempting to put into force a law that seems to have been drafted for the special purpose of making gambling convictions as difficult to obtain as possible—of providing for them a sort of resultless gymnastic training. In the case decided yesterday the police acted just as their fellow-officers did in London.

don with marked success some months ago ; and had the law in Hongkong been as it is in England, conviction would have followed straight away. But more is required of them by our absurd ordinances than is required in London. In a Hongkong common gaming is not prohibited. Any number of men, if they form themselves into a so-called club, may, along with their friends, gamble to their heart's content. The law cannot interfere. Only if any of the outside public are admitted does the play become public gambling. But how are the police to prove that anyone found gambling is not a member of the club or has not been introduced by a member of the club ? If a prosecution is attempted, a long list

outside public are admitted does the play become public gambling. But how are the police to prove that anyone found gambling is not a member of the club or has not been introduced by a member of the club? If a prosecution is attempted, a long list

So, is produced. Who is to say that the Ahon who has been caught at the table is not the Ahon in the list? By employing informers—a very objectionable course of procedure—as informers are among the worst blackguards in the Colony—a conviction might be obtained, provided the informer is not bought over. But if a manager of a club is in any way careful, he need not be caught even by an informer. His clientele is so numerous that he is independent of dubious customers. And, even if the case came before the Court, what reliance could be placed on an informer's evidence? Who is to say that he is not a member of the very club he denounces and has informed because the manager would not sufficiently 'insult' him? Whatever Mr. Wadehouse

may say, there is no getting over the fact that our gambling laws are utterly bad—as bad as to justify the police in giving up the business altogether. The last attempt at 'amending' the law was such an utter failure, that an Oriental disposed to judge rulers as he judges his' own would be justified in coming to the conclusion that—to combine the French' and Spanish expressions—both the hands and the feet of the Executive were anointed and greased by the gambling masters. In Singapore the laws against gambling are very strict, as they ought to be in every Colony where the Asiatic element predominates. Yet in Hongkong far greater latitude is allowed than in England. The evil consequences that follow from unrestrained gambling do not need to be pointed out. They have been only too evident during the last sixteen

months. It may be that the Chinese are not the only delinquents. Mr. Caldwell, in defending his clients, said there was no difference between an institution of this kind (institution is a fine euphemistic word for a gambling club) and certain clubs of a similar character in Hongkong which were frequented by Europeans. That is very true, but we do

not advocate one law for the Chinese and one law for the Europeans. If the Hongkong Club were turned into a gambling 'institution' pure and simple, run by a professional gambling master, by all means let it be 'burst' as well as the Chinese clubs. If the Government will not go farther, they ought at least to make the law here as stringent as it is in England, where not only public but common gaming is prohibited. If they did this, they would give some evidence of an honest desire to deal with a crying evil; and if the law were impartially administered there could be no accusation of class legislation.

TELEGRAMS.

[SUPPLIED TO THE "CHINA MAIL"]

(Via Southern Line.)

DESOLATING FIRE IN TURKEY.
A destructive fire has occurred in Salonica. The whole European quarter has been completely destroyed. Twelve thousand persons have been rendered homeless; two hundred and fifty acres laid waste; consulates, mosques, churches, hospitals and archives of great value destroyed.

[Salonica is, next to Constantinople, the largestemporium of commerce in the Turkish empire. It has a population of about 80,000, consisting chiefly of Turks, Greeks and Jews in almost equal numbers.]

—Ed. C. M.]

The Telemachus arrived in Singapore on the 2nd inst. from Jeddah, which she had sailed on the 13th of August with 7 pilgrims, of whom 163 landed at Penang. The balance came on to Singapore in the *Telemachus*, which on arrival was boarded by the health officer, who ascertained that, on the passage, sixteen pilgrims and three

Intimations.

THE CHINA REVIEW.

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THIS Review, which was intended to meet

the wants of many students of Chinese history and literature, has reached its eighteenth volume. The Review discusses those topics which are important in the minds of students of the Far East, and about which every intelligent person connected with China or Japan is desirous of acquiring trustworthy information. It contains many interesting Notes and original papers on the Arts, Sciences, Ethnology, Folklore, Geography, History, Literature, Mythology, Natural History, Antiquities, and Social Manners and Customs, etc., etc., of China, Japan, Mongolia, Tibet, and the Far East generally. Recently a new departure has been taken, and the Review now gives papers on Trade, Commerce, and Descriptive notes of Travel by well-known writers. It was thought that by extending the scope of the Review in this direction, the Magazine would be made more generally useful.

The Review department receives special attention, and endeavours are made to present a careful and concise record of literature on China etc., and to give criticisms embodying sketches of the most recent works on such topics. Authors and Publishers are requested to forward works to 'Editor, China Review, care of China Mail Office.'

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The Subscription is fixed at \$6.50 per annum, postage included—payable in advance. Orders for binding volumes will be promptly attended to. Address: 'Manager, China Mail Office.'

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.
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This number contains several articles of interest and value. 'Notes on the History of the Chinese for September-October' fully maintains the high standard of excellence which characterizes that publication, and altogether forms a very interesting and readable number. Meteorological will find an interesting and valuable contribution by Dr. Fritzsche, on 'The Amount of Precipitation (Rain and Snow) of Peking,' showing the results of observations made at the Imperial Russian Observatory at Peking, from 1841 to 1880. 'Notes on the Dutch Occupation of Formosa,' by Mr. Geo. Phillips, contains some interesting information, although much of it is second-hand. The Notes of the New Books include a most generous and appreciative review of 'The Divine Classic of Nan-Hua,' and the Notes and Queries are as usual very interesting.—North-China Daily News.

A substantial and reliable Review which all students of China and the Chinese would do well to patronize. 'The November-December number of the China Review contains less variety than usual, but the few articles are very interesting. The opening paper by Mr. Herbert A. Giles on 'The New Testament in Chinese' treats of a question that must necessarily be of great importance in the eyes of all missionaries. Mr. E. H. Parker's 'Short Journals in Szechuan' are continued, and a goodly instalment of these travels in the interior of China is given. Mr. F. H. Balfour contributes a paper of some length entitled 'The Emperor Cheng, founder of the Chinese Empire,' which will be read with genuine interest by students of Chinese history. A few short notices of New Books and a number of Notes and Queries, one of which 'On Chinese Oaths in Western Borneo and Java' might appropriately have been placed under a separate heading, complete the number.'—H.K. Daily Press.

Frederick's Oriental Record contains the following notice of the China Review: 'The present publication, judging by the number now before us, is intended to occupy a position, as regards China and the neighbouring countries, some what similar to that which has been filled in India by the Cathartic Review. The great degree of attention that has been bestowed of late years upon the investigation of Chinese history, antiquities, and social developments, to say nothing of linguistic studies, has led to the accumulation of important stores of information, rendering more such channel of publicity as is now provided extremely desirable; and contributions of much interest may fairly be looked for from the members of the foreign consular services, the Chinese Customs' corps, and the missionary body, among whom a high degree of Chinese scholarship is now assiduously cultivated, and who are severally represented in the first number of the Review by papers highly creditable to their respective authors. Some translations from Chinese novels and plays are marked by both accuracy and freshness of style; and an account of the career of the Chinese poet-statesman of the eleventh century, Su Tung-p'o, by Mr. E. C. Bowra, is not only historically valuable, but is also distinguished by its literary grace. Beside notices of new books relating to China and the East, which will be a useful feature of the Review, if carried out with punctuality and detail, we are glad to notice that 'Notes' and 'Queries' are destined to find a place in its pages also. It is to be hoped that this opening for contributions on Chinese subjects may evoke a similar degree of literary activity to that which was evoked during the lifetime of the great poet in the field, and that the China Review may receive the support necessary to insure its continuance.'

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Intimations.

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Section.
1. From Green Island to the Gas Works.
2. From Gas Works to Jardine's Wharf.
3. From Jardine's Wharf to the Harbour Master's Office.
4. From Harbour Master's Office to the P. and O. Co.'s Office.
5. From P. and O. Co.'s Office to Pollard's Wharf.
6. From Pollard's Wharf to the Navy Yard.
7. From Naval Yard to Blue Buildings.
8. From Blue Buildings to East Point.
9. From East Point to North Point.
10. Kowloon Wharves.
11. Jardine's Wharf.

Vessel's Name.	Flag.	Reg.	Tons.	Date of Arrival.	Consignees or Agents.	Destination.	Remarks.
Aratoun Apea	Brit.	str.	1392	Sept. 6	David Sassoon, Sons & Co.	Calcutta	16th inst.
Balgie	Brit.	str.	2695	Sept. 6	G.O. & O. S. S. Co.	San Francisco	16th inst.
Berwenue	Brit.	str.	1500	Sept. 6	G.O. & O. S. S. Co.	Bombay	16th inst.
Bombay	Brit.	str.	2047	Sept. 6	G.O. & O. S. S. Co.	Bombay	16th inst.
Breconshire	Brit.	str.	1648	Sept. 6	G.O. & O. S. S. Co.	Bombay	16th inst.
Chusan	Brit.	str.	623	Sept. 6	G.O. & O. S. S. Co.	Bombay	16th inst.
Cheong Chee	Brit.	str.	1213	Sept. 6	G.O. & O. S. S. Co.	Bombay	16th inst.
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Congo	Brit.	str.	1000	Sept. 6	G.O. & O. S. S. Co.	Bombay	16th inst.
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Taisung	Brit.	str.	1506	Sept. 6	G.O. & O. S. S. Co.	Bombay	16th inst.

Vessel's Name.	Flag.	Reg.	Tons.	Date of Arrival.	Consignees or Agents.	Destination.	Remarks.
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Assyria	Brit.	bgs.	1148	July 21	Arnhold, Karberg & Co.	Bombay	16th inst.
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Foreign Fleet—War on the China and Japan Station.

Name.	Flag and Rig.	Tons.	Guns.	H.P.	Captain.	Where at.	
Admiral Korniloff	Russian armored cruiser	6000	18	7000	Captain Alexeyeff	Japan	
Admiral Nakhimoff	Russian armored cruiser	8600	22	8000	Captain Fedotoff	Japan	
Albatross	Russian gunboat	800	—	—	Captain Parengoff	Nagasaki	
Alliance	U. S. gunboat	816	—	—	Captain H. C. Taylor	Yokohama	
Aragon	Spanish cruiser	1908	—	—	Captain A. Soler	On a cruise	
Arcturion	French gunboat	470	4	450	Commander Journef	Shanghai	
Chasseur	French despatch-veasel	—	—	—	Captain Bagard	Saigon	
Dijigit	Russian cruiser	1200	—	—	Commander Nikonoff	Singapore	
Ertongroul	Turkish corvette	1750	—	—	Captain Oamen Pacha	Yokohama	
Itia	German gunboat	489	—	—	Captain Aescher	Yokohama	
Itatin	French gunboat	433	4	425	Captain Neny	Tourna	
Madanjor	Russian gun-vessel	1100	9	1200	Captain Tchubakrin	—	
Marcon	U. S. corvette	1338	7	1170	Commander Dyer	Kobe	
McDougal	U. S. sloop	1376	6	1470	Lieut.-Com. M. I. Johnson	Shanghai	
Ono-Ita	U. S. corvette	2400	12	1750	Capt. Cromwell	Yokohama	
Paso	U. S. gunboat	429	8	560	Lieut. Cona, Craig	Nagasaki	
Platée	French gunboat	545	—	420	Lieut.-Commander Pourret	Macao	
Rio Lima	Portuguese gunboat	540	—	—	Captain J. R. Santa Barbara	Haiphong	
Saurore	French transport	900	1	1600	Commander Kutherinichoff	Shanghai	
Shio-ich	Russian cruiser	2160	—	—	Captain Herbing	Singapore	
Sopale	German cruiser	—	—	—	Commander John McGowan	Kobe	
Spraker	corvette	—	—	—	Lieut.-Com. C. R. Caminhs	Macao	
Tejo	Portuguese gunboat	500	3	100	Capt. De la Noe	Yokohama	
Triumphante	French cruiser	4500	—	—	Captain Mayet	Yokohama	
Villars	French cruiser	—	—	—	Commander Gondot	Hongkong	
Vigore	French gunboat	486	6	425	Captain Creuder	Yokohama	
Wright	German gunboat	384	6	540	—	—	—